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WASHINGTON REPORT

BY FULTON LEWIS, JR.

62-841

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WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 8 -- Maine's acid-tongued Margaret Chase Smith is sulking these days.

The Senate's only female Republican is annoyed because she has not been named ranking member on the Armed Services Committee. That post is now occupied by Massachusetts' Leverett Saltonstall, who moved up to ranking positions on both the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees with the death of Sen. Styles Bridges.

Mrs. Smith is of the opinion that "Salty" should relinquish the Armed Services spot in her favor. However, virtually all Senate Republicans hope that Saltonstall will keep the Armed Services position.

Saltonstall, a former Massachusetts Governor, is greatly respected by members on both sides of the aisle. He works well with Republicans and Democrats alike.

Not so "Maggie" Smith, whose reputation for stubbornness is well deserved. She is known to hold grudges for record periods of time.

Many Republicans have not forgiven her for "defecting" three years ago on the nomination of Lewis Strauss for Secretary of Commerce. Mrs. Smith was one of two Republicans who joined the Democratic opposition to defeat Syrauss.

Mrs. Smith took occasion a fortnight ago to vote against Senate confirmation for John McCone, named by President Kennedy as chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

McCone, a Republican, performed yeoman service during the Eisenhower Administration as Atomic Energy Commissioner. He is a favorite target of Soviet propagandists, who call him a "dangerous Cold Warrior."

Nevertheless, Mrs. Smith cast her vote against McCone's confirmation on the grounds that he was guilty of conflict of interest improprieties. The Senate disagreed, approving McCone by an overwhelming majority.

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She has not publicly commented on the following, but Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt recently received this cable from Soviet Premier Khrushchev:

"Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Hyde Park, United States. Esteemed Mrs. Roosevelt: I am sending you this cable on the eve of the day when a memorable jubilee, the 80th anniversary of the birth of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, will be observed. In the history of the stormy events of the 20th century, President Roosevelt will always hold a worthy place as one of the most outstanding statesmen of the world. Having a profound understanding of the trends in international life, he reached the conclusion that the only sensible way of conducting state relations lies in businesslike cooperation."

The Khrushchev cable signalled a concentrated campaign within the USSR to glorify the former President. S. Vishnevsky wrote in a Pravda article, entitled "Roosevelt's Traditions," that FDR was one of history's truly great men.

"His perspicacity and experience suggested that militant anti-Communism would bring America no good," wrote Vishnevsky.

It was suggested that President Kennedy follow not "the slippery path of armament build-up and military gambles," but the Roosevelt tradition of friendship.

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